

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01

ACDA-10 DHA-02 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 /126 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5770

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS USUN 0486

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, FR, SO, FT, ET

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DJIBOUTI INCIDENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY  
PRESS RELEASE OF FEBRUARY 7 CONCERNING DJIBOUTI INCIDENT,  
DISTRIBUTED BY ETHIOPIAN MISSION TO UN FEBRUARY 9:

QUOTE:

"THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST  
ETHIOPIA HAS FOLLOWED WITH SERIOUS CONCERN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE TERRITORY OF THE AFARS AND ISSAS (DJIBOUTI) WHICH  
INDICATE A PATTERN OF GROWING VIOLENCE. IN THIS CONNECTION,  
THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS COULD ONLY BE LOOKED  
AT WITH ALARM.

A GROUP WHICH CLAIMED TO BELONGING TO A LIBERATION MOVEMENT  
AND TO HAVE ACTED ON ITS OWN HAD TAKEN HOSTAGE MORE THAN 30  
SCHOOL CHILDREN OSTENSIBLY TO FORCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH  
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AUTHORITIES ON WHAT IT TERMED THE "UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE"

OF THE TERRITORY. IN AN EFFORT TO FREE THE HOSTAGES, FIRE WAS OPENED AND IN THE ENSUING EXCHANGE THE KIDNAPPERS AND A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHER CHILDREN WERE WOUNDED. ANOTHER CHILD WAS ABDUCTED AND TAKEN TO THE TERRITORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

"THE KIDNAPPING OF HELPLESS CHILDREN FOR A PURPOSE WHICH DOES NOT ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY OF DJIBOUTI IS A SENSELESS AND GRAVE ACT. EVEN MORE SERIOUS TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION IS THAT THE EVENTS THAT THIS KIDNAPPING HAD SET IN MOTION HAD RESULTED IN AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE ACROSS THE BORDER BETWEEN REGULARS OF SOMALI AND FRENCH ARMED FORCES WITH LOSS OF LIVES ON BOTH SIDES. THIS INCIDENT HAS NOW CREATED TENSION BETWEEN SOMALI ARMED FORCES WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE BORDER AND WHICH NOW FACE FRENCH ARMED FORCES ACROSS THE BORDER.

"INTIMATELY INVOLVED AS ETHIOPIA'S VITAL INTERESTS ARE, THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THIS TENSION WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP INTO A CONFLICT THAT WOULD AFFECT PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED.

"THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT BY GENERATING A CONFLICT IN THE AREA NO PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED AND NO GOAL WILL BE ADVANCE AS FAR AS THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI IS CONCERNED. IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT AFTER A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF INDEPENDENCE. IT IS ALSO AGREED BY ALL SIDES, INCLUDING THE POWER THAT HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY, THAT INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY FREE ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL GROUPS OF WHATEVER POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND PROGRAM WOULD PARTICIPATE. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY SHOULD ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE IS A MATTER THAT HAS TO BE DECIDED BY THE PEOPLE THROUGH A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. NO OUTSIDE FORCE HAS THE RIGHT TO SET PRECONDITIONS TO INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY, EVEN LESS TO IMPOSE ANY CONDITION UPON THEM BY THE INTRODUCTION OF VIOLENCE INTO THEIR POLITICS.

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"THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT SINCERELY HOPES THAT AT THIS FINAL STAGE IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY, THE EFFORTS OF THE NEIGHBOURING STATES, THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS, AND INDEED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS MAKING THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS AS FREE AND AS DEMOCRATIC AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY, WHO HAVE NO VISIBLE RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT, CAN

ACHIEVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE IN PEACE AND UNITY WITH ASSURANCE OF SECURING ALL THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THEY NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR ECONOMY AND THE PROTECTION OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

"IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL THAT A POLICY DESIGNED TO CREATE FALSE ISSUES AND THE INCREASING INTRODUCTION OF VIOLENCE INTO THE POLITICS OF THE TERRITORY WILL ONLY RETARD PROGRESS TOWARDS GENUINE INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD ONLY ADVANCE THE OBJECTIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE A CONTINUING CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY.

"FOR THESE REASONS, THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ALL ATTEMPTS DESIGNED TO SUBVERT THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS ALREADY UNDERWAY BY CREATING FALSE ISSUES REGARDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY. ETHIOPIA AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES ARE, THEREFORE, ENTITLED TO ASK WHAT SPECIFIC PURPOSE THE INCREASING INTRODUCTION OF VIOLENCE AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE IS DESIGNED TO SERVE.

"ETHIOPIA HAS AS MUCH INTEREST AS ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY IN THE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY. ETHIOPIA'S CLOSE HISTORICAL AND ORGANIC LINKS WITH THE TERRITORY NEED NOT REQUIRE ANY ELABORATION, SINCE THE MAJORITY OF THE TWO MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS WHICH INHABIT THE TERRITORY RESIDE IN ETHIOPIA. AS A NATURAL OUTLET FOR ETHIOPIA'S HINTERLAND, THE PORT OF DJIBOUTI HANDLES OVER 60 PER CENT OF HER EXTERNAL TRADE. MOREOVER, THE PORT OF DJIBOUTI, LINKED AS IT IS WITH THE INTERIOR OF ETHIOPIA BY A RAILWAY, IS BOUND TO BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AS AN OUTLET WHEN THE VAST REGION OF ETHIOPIA SOUTH OF THE RIFT VALLEY IS DEVELOPED.

"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TERRITORY OF DJIBOUTI TO ETHIOPIA'S SECURITY INTEREST CANNOT SUFFICIENTLY BE OVEREMPHASIZED.  
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"IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON RECENT EVENTS IN THE TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS."  
UNQUOTE.  
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